

April '96

Volume X No IV



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MagiCurrents

MEMBERSHIP BOOM IN S.D.

Ring 76 Membership Jumps 1,452

The number of members in *Ring 76* has jumped an astounding 1,452 to 1,512 full, paid and participating members. The *Ring* Treasurer reports that we now have slightly more than \$46,517 U.S. dollars in the bank. This dramatic membership increase, and the corresponding increase in funds means that the Board has altered its plans for the annual installation of officers.

The plans for the July installation of officers is now to charter a United 777 and fly the Officers and select members of the *Ring* to Hawaii for an installation banquet hosted by **Doug Henning** and **Harry Anderson**. The featured performers, schedule permitting, are **David Copperfield** and **Siegfried and Roy**.

It is anticipated that the cost, including the buffet with chicken and fish, should be a very reasonable \$8,723 per person with tables of ten at \$87,000. We have booked a hall which seats 15,300 and must have your reservation, paid of course, by March 15 to guarantee space. For seats call TicketMaster at 1-800-April-Fool.



RING REPORT

Rick Waterhouse began the evening by thanking **Dan Thomas**, owner of the Gathering, for letting us use the restaurant this month for the *Ring* meeting. Dan has worked long hours preparing for and executing the move of the restaurant from its previous home across the street — nicely done Dan. Rick noted that while the restaurant was perfect for tonight's video meeting, it may not be the ideal venue for some fu-

see *RING* page 4

LECTURE REVIEW

GREGORY WILSON by Greg Wauson

Gregory Wilson is the guy who brought us the highly-acclaimed video on the double lift. In February, he brought a lecture to San Diego. This lecture, titled "*Magic Anytime, Anywhere, With Anything*," delivered in a big way, in my opinion. He began by telling us that many years ago he found himself in the uncomfortable position of being a magician and yet, when someone asked him to do a trick, he had to answer he couldn't because he didn't have any tricks with him. He no longer has that problem.

The material he offered was fresh, entertaining and most of the time very baffling. Think about it.

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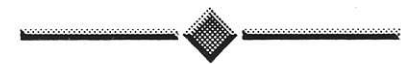
PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Dear Brethren,

As we come to the close of another club year, it is time for fresh blood (or rested and rejuvenated old blood) to step to the plate and guide your club into the next year. As you sit back and wonder who might be your next President, Vice-President, Secretary, Sergeant at Arms, Newsletter Editor, or Treasurer, try visualizing yourself in one of these posts. Think of the good that you could do and the improvements that you could make. Now is the time.

Good things coming up in San Diego: Kalamar is back at Tidbits, T.C. Tahoe is lecturing for Ring 76, The incomparable Guy Hollingsworth is coming from England to lecture in San Diego (Don't Miss it!!!), Dan Garrett is coming in August, and this month Ring 76 is performing, for its second public event in recent memory, Magic in the Streets. I strongly encourage you to enjoy and support these upcoming magic related events.

Regards,
RW



MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE

All *Ring 76* memberships lapse in April. Renewing your membership ensures uninterrupted *MagiCurrents* and the T.C. Tahoe Lecture in May (for free!). Dues are \$20, payable to *Ring 76*. Send your check to Jim Jolly (see page 6) or bring it to the April meeting. T.C. Tahoe lecture for non-members, \$15.00

Scott's Thoughts

by Scott Wells,
A.I.M.C.



Secrets

It's often been said that we know enough tricks. The corollary is that we just need to know how to perform them in an entertaining and a uniquely personal way. I think that most of us know how to perform them ... after all, the "sure fire, killer" patter is included with the step by step instructions. So what differentiates one magician from another? And for that matter, what differentiates a layman from a magician who is performing a trick that he just bought from the dealer? The answer to the latter question is simple ... the magician just beat the layman to the magic shop.

A "magician" who hasn't adequately practiced an effect and insists on showing that effect to someone as soon as possible is no different from anyone who just bought a new car. They both want to show off their new purchases to someone as soon as they can so that they can get their ego stroked with a compliment. The difference is that a magician can't show the box and say "let me read you the instructions on what this thing does." He must show how it's done. He must demonstrate the effect and a "demonstration" is often confused with a "performance." The demonstration may develop into an entertaining performance over time after practice and rehearsal and with the injection of the magician's personality, but a demonstration is often no more than a presentation of a puzzle (no denigration to magic dealers intended.)

Len Kornsberg's column in the June 1995 issue of *MAGIC Magazine* postulated that there have

conservatively been 200 magic books written since the 19th century and that if each contained 20 tricks, then we have access to 2,000 tricks. He took it further to include tricks included in lecture notes, new magic books and magazines that teach more "original" tricks each year and each month. He modestly guessed that we have access to 300,000 tricks. With access to all of this magical knowledge, then we must have reached critical mass a long time ago.

Okay, assuming that we know enough tricks, then let's go further to assume that we know enough principles. Fitzkee pointed out in his 1944 book *The Trick Brain* that there are only 19 basic effects and I don't think that the physics of magic have changed since then. Sure, the principles have been updated and/or expanded; however, the methods of accomplishing these effects can be understood through study and practice. Whenever we see a dealer demonstrate an effect or a magician perform on TV, we know, think we know, or have a good idea, of how the effect was accomplished. We know the basic card sleights, black art principles, and other arcane methods. We know of the existence of gimmicks, shells, gaffs, and false bottoms and how they are applied to the art of illusion.

We have books that explain how everything is done that we can always go to for reference. If we have all of this information, then why aren't we applying them to our own performances? That is to say, why aren't we more creative? Why are there so many "creative copy cats" who bastardize great ideas and think that they have created something new? Before I go too far afield on ethics, I want to focus on your magical knowledge and what you could be doing with it.

see SCOTT page 7

GREG from page 1

That says a lot about the quality of these effects. Magic catalogs advertise tricks this way and often those adjectives apply, but imagine doing minor miracles *impromptu*! Naturally nothing comes for free and although the effects Gregory performed don't cost money, they do require practice to polish them into gems. Fortunately for the 15 or so attendees, the lecturer had obviously already invested his own time (as well as lots of performances for live audiences) to make them look natural and polished.

So what are some of these effects? How about making a borrowed coin disappear *completely* and convincingly? Or how about changing a dime (or an acorn or a rock) visibly into a silver dollar when it's tossed into the air? Or would you be impressed to see someone make a half dollar appear, disappear, then appear and completely disappear again apparently using only his bare hands and with no phony moves? How about an impromptu ring through spoon trick and a routine with a borrowed Bic pen? Pretty cool, huh?

This is the first time I've seen routinized impromptu magic. Some of what I learn, for example, was instead of just doing one trick with a borrowed quarter why not make it into a routine where the coin disappears not once but twice and each time appears under the magician's watch. It then disappears once more and appears under the spectator's (!) watch. Greg teaches this routine during the lecture and I can only imagine the impact this would have on someone who simply asked you to "show me a trick."



Gregory Wilson

For situations where you're sitting at a table, Gregory demonstrated and taught a "one goes into the pocket, two go into my hand" effect with crumpled dollar bills. Very impromptu but effective. He also performed a piece with a packet of Sweet 'N Low, a dollar bill and a quarter.

What's a lecture on impromptu magic without a rubber band effect? I don't know because this lecture included both a good band through the wrist trick and a version of Dan Harlan's "Traveling Cash" using a borrowed wrist watch, a time travel theme and finishing with a kicker.

Gregory's performing style has something in common with Michael Ammar. Both like to remove the "picture frame" from around the

effects, blurring the distinction between the magician's friendly conversation with the audience and when the next trick has begun. The result is that the picture frame is formed around the performer himself as an effective entertainer because the audience does

not know when something mysterious and entertaining is going to begin. I realized this is characteristic of Gregory's presentation when a half dollar appeared from nowhere during what I thought were some introductory comments about the lecture.

The only items for sale were \$20 pre-recorded videos of this same lecture. Greg should be commended for bringing these videos. Attendees who intended to buy a video could stop taking notes and concentrate on the teaching. Sales of these videos were brisk after the lecture showing me I was not the only one who gave this lecture high marks. If you have a

chance to see Gregory Wilson perform or lecture I suggest you do not miss it.

ASK THE PRO



Curtis R. Clark

QUESTION: I am in the middle of the presentation of a brilliant, somewhat involved effect that requires the TOTAL attention of the spectators to see that there are not any MOVES. What do I do if someone interrupts at the critical moment?

CURTIS CLARK: Working in the restaurant environment is about the most challenging for magicians. There are customers moving around, people drinking, food and servers coming and going faster than imaginable. Without exception, you will be interrupt.

My style of magic, if you will, is to perform to the people. I may do the same effect three different ways with three different people. So, first I have to read the situation and the people. If my audience says: "You planned this!" I generally respond "Yeah. This server and I have it all arranged. At this exact moment, every night, she delivers food to this



very table, so this trick will work just right." Of course they immediately see the impossibility of the situation.

Another way that works very well for me is to designate one person to be the audience observer. I will select the person who has been scrutinizing my performance up to this point. Looking them squarely in the eyes I say, "You will watch me, never taking your eyes from my hands, so no funny business goes on behind everyone else's back." I then stand perfectly still and don't move my hands at all.

Another approach that works well for me, if I just can't see any way around the trick being broken, is to give it up, shrug, turn to the server and say "That's it! Pack your bags, you're outta here." Audiences love that and I always get positive reaction. I just verbally toy with the group until the food or drinks are served and move on to the next killer effect.

Basically, watch your audience. They will generally give you an indication of the best approach for them.

Curtis Clark has been performing at restaurants, clubs and conventions for over thirteen years. Curtis performs at RJ's Riptide (5th and K) Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and at the Gathering Thursday and Friday evenings.

The Champions of Magic ABC Monday April 29

8 PM. Hosted by Princess Stephanie of Monaco and Lorenzo Lamas

Pendragons, Luis DeMatos, Alain Choquette, Bill Malone, Joseph Gabriel, Steve Wyrick, Channing Pollock and Greg Frewin.

New illusions include:

Shrouded Transition (Greg Frewin)
Blades of Death (Steve Wyrick)
Beach Levitation (Luis DeMatos)
Bits and Pieces, and Blueprint Girl
(created by Jim Steinmeyer) by Alain Choquette
Drop of Doom (created by Gary Ouellet)
by Greg Frewin

Plus classic card magic by Malone, classic bird magic by Gabriel, close up by DeMatos and Choquette, and

two relatively unknown Pendragon pieces, Infinity and Artist's Dream.

Channing Pollock comes out of retirement and produces a dove!

Princess Stephanie participates in two illusions.

The show was taped in Monte Carlo.

PRODUCT REVIEW

AUTO MONTE

By Jim Batten

At our Ring meeting last Tuesday (Rochester, New York), one of our members brought in a new effect called Auto Monte from Bob King. If you like Monte, this is pretty cool.

Three Jumbo cards are spread to show the typical money card in the center, losers on the ends. Then you remove the hand holding the spread to show the kicker, the cards are permanently riveted together at the bottom making it impossible to move the money card from the center. The spread is closed, the bets are made, but when the cards are respread, the money card is one of the outside cards. Close and reopen the fan, the winner is again in the center of the spread. A sticker is clearly affixed to the money card, the fan is closed but when shown again, the card has again moved to the outside (and the sticker has followed it!).

This is nice strong magic with lots of room for comedy. Unlike similar effects out there, thanks to a 'circular locking mechanism' (Bob's words), this needs no reset or extra cards. Oops, I let it slip, this is mechanical... no real work involved. But, even for us that enjoy a bit of a challenge, this has the makings for a lot of fun and is so clean no one will ever suspect a thing.

AUTO MONTE by Bob King, \$18.00

(Ed. Note: From Jim Batten on the Electronic Grymoire. All Rights Reserved. You can reach Jim at batten@kodak.com)



In Memory of
Gary Cliff
IBM 48999R
1942 - 1994

RING from page 1

ture meetings. Rick asked the site selection committee to meet with Mary Brown and look at the Francis Parker school as a potential meeting location.

Jim Jolly gave a brief Treasurer's report: the *Ring* has over \$1,000 in the bank with two months of MagiCurrents receipts outstanding. Rick noted that the cost of MagiCurrents had been questioned by a *Ring* member some months ago. An analysis of newsletter costs had shown that the costs were comparable to costs from a year ago. Costs are down over the past two months from changes such as limiting the number of free mailings (to non-renewing members) and having Board meetings a week earlier (to allow time to produce the newsletter more cost-effectively).

Rick indicated that new procedures are in place to help us more effectively track membership renewals. Every member will receive a receipt, proof of their membership. Jim Jolly had already collected four membership renewals earlier this evening. Greg Wauson informed the group of the upcoming T.C. Tahoe lecture (May 13) and that the Board was working on the location and format of the installation of new officers.

Jim Jolly presented I.B.M. international certificates and pins to: **Bill Monroe** and **Diane (Snickerdoodle) Lane**. Diane was recipient of the coveted certificate carry case, the official I.B.M. *manila envelop, complete with canceled stamps*.

The new business portion of the meeting began with the appointment of a nominating committee for the *Ring* 76 June elections. **Diane Lane**, Chairperson, **Sherry Luft** and **Bill Monroe** volunteered for the committee.

see *RING REPORT* page 7

28TH ANNUAL ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS AWARDS

BY T. C. TAHOE

The 28th Annual Academy of Magical Arts Awards was held on Saturday March 23, 1996. Just like the excitement that surrounds the other Academy Awards, the Magic Castle was a buzz the whole week prior to the Awards Banquet.



This year was different though, it wasn't just one night. The Academy of Magical Arts, Inc. put together a entire weekend package. The weekend was kicked off on the Friday evening with a special dinner held for all the Honorees, followed by a 'Meet the Nominees' cocktail hour, (actually it lasted over three), held at the Magic Castle down in the Inner Circle. Most of the nominees were present along with celebrity magicians Penn and Teller. There was a special show put on in the Peller theater by Jamy Ian Swiss.

Saturday brought the Magic Castle Swap Meet. Once again over the deal making you could hear people talking about the sold out banquet that night. The banquet was hosted by Harry Anderson of

Dave's World and Night Court fame. Mr. Anderson was a perfect host for this event, keeping everything moving. The Winners this year were

Paul Gertner -
Close-up Magician of the Year

Whit Haydn - Par-
lour Magician of the Year

Falkenstein and Willard - Stage Magician of the Year

Johnny Ace Palmer - Lecturer of the Year

The 1996 Awards to **Lynette Chappell**, in appreciation of her lasting contribution to the art of Grand Illusion through her long time partnership with **Siegfried & Roy**, **Bora**, **Jack Kodell**, **Doug Henning**, **Finn Jon**, **Alan Wakeling**, **Robert Orben** (in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the art of magic.)



The show was something Las Vegas could only dream about. Opening with the ever rising Greg Frewn. If you get a chance to see this young man make sure you take a deep breath before he starts, because there's no breathing during his act.

Madman Larry Wilson was next with an act designed especially for the Awards night and to try and describe it here would be . . . Almost as crazy as it was to watch, lets just say there was no monkeying around!

If you have never heard of Bora, than you have probably never seen a true pickpocket. Bora breaks the pickpocket and magician's rule, he acutely tells you up front what he is going to do and dares you to catch him.

Penn & Teller were named **Magicians of the Year** and closed the show with an uncharacteristic Teller doing most of the talking. The duo never ceases to astound and shock audiences.



Sunday brought a special Sunday Brunch to the Magic Castle honoring the Winners.

The 28th Annual Academy of Magical Arts Award Weekend was a groundbreaking weekend in magic and they are already planing next year's events. So don't miss one of the biggest events in the world of magic, next year's **29th Annual Academy of Magical Arts Award Weekend**.

(Our thanks to T. C. Tahoe and the Academy of Magical Arts for this timely article.)

Board Report

Board Report - March 25, 1996 at Rick Waterhouse's home, San Diego

Attendees: Rick Waterhouse, Greg Wauson, Sherry Luft, Mark Flores, Dick Bush, Jim Fry, Dick Dale and Jeff Marcus

Agenda:

1. Slate of Officers for coming year
2. Casa de Amparo
3. Selling Event (next Ring meeting)
4. Installation of Officers
5. Paul Killea
6. Ring Reports

1. **Slate of Officers** Mark Flores has agreed to seek another term in his current position as a Board Member at Large with Rick Waterhouse filling the second at Large Board seat. Sherry was asked if she would consider running for *Ring* Secretary and has indicated that she would think about it. Greg Wauson indicated he has interest in serving the *Ring* in several potential capacities (President, Secretary or Vice-President). Several sug-

gestions were made by the members present and given to Sherry to carry forward to the nominating committee.

2. **Selling Event** the was considerable discussion on whether the Board wanted the selling event scheduled for the next regular *Ring* meeting, April 8, should be an auction or a swap meet with a blind auction component. Dick Dales was asked if he would consider being the auctioneer as Gary Salisbury declined due to current work demands. Dick indicated he would, if no one else was found to fill the position. Jeff Marcus' criticisms were that an auction tends to go on too long and that there was too much whining about the event after the event.

Rick and Dick both indicated that there was too much whining about small things after the event that left unpleasant memories.

Dick was assigned an action item to try and locate the rules used in last year's auction and provide these to Rick this week. Tables will be rented for \$5 each and the Ring will receive 10% of auctioned magic. Dick Dale will handle the auction and Jeff Marcus volunteered to help him. Jim Jolly and Sherry Luft will handle the money collection, recording and distribution for the auction. People should reserve a table by calling Jim Jolly.

2. **Installation Banquet** Greg reported that he had talked with a number of restaurants and hotels and the prices varied with a low of \$14.95 + 15% gratuity + tax, or about \$18 per person. Some with a maximum head count and all with a minimum.

Rick had talked with Tidbits and there was no minimum and

no risk to the Ring. Tidbits will seat a maximum of 250 people. There is a limited appetizer menu with drinks. Tidbits would get all the food and drink receipts and the Ring could have the door. Rick had talked with Mike Finney about performing though the cost is \$2,500 although Mike indicated a willingness to talk about the fee.

There was an initial vote by the Board of 2 for Banquet, 2 for Cabaret and 2 for a mix of the two styles. Discussion focused on the fact that the Cabaret-style promoted magic in San Diego and members would not be interested in paying more than last year's cost for a banquet. Greg suggested that the Ring pick up the initial \$5 for the first 50 members; subsequent discussion indicated the cost to the Ring was too high and it was not put to a vote.

Greg was asked to search for additional banquet locations, with lower cost, but a vote by the Board of the installation format was 4 for Cabaret and 1 for Banquet. A cabaret format will be pursued. Rick was assigned to look at other locations and consider other performers.

3. **Casa De Amparo** Rick reported that Loch David Crane, Greg Wauson, Jeff Marcus (tentatively), himself and one of the young non-Ring 76 performers from Magic Heritage Day have volunteered to perform. Sponsors of the event were said to be delighted and tickets for performers' guests would be provided by Rick. Magic In The Streets is a benefit for Casa De Amparo, April 28, 1996, from 1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students.

See BOARD page 10

L.A. LECTURES

Jamy Ian Swiss at Brookledge
Friday, **MARCH 29**- 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
Come discover a truly unique lecture experience. Learn why the Jamy Ian Swiss lecture has garnered wide critical acclaim for its "missionary zeal" and "intense... inspiring... dynamic presentation." A lecture filled with practical, potent material from a professional repertoire, with a special emphasis on performance skills and magic theory.

Admission: Fifteen dollars.
929 South Longwood Avenue,
Los Angeles

Monday, **APRIL 1**, from 7:30 pm to ???,
Jamy will present an intensive seminar with an emphasis on sleight-of-hand technique. Here is your chance—amateur or pro, beginner or advanced—to learn the real work, and refine any card, coin or close-up technique you wish to ask about and see "up close and personal." Receive focused instruction and invaluable advice. (Limited to twenty registrants.)

Cost: Thirty dollars Reservations required
For further information, call:
213-935-2848

SCOTT from page 2

If we get to a point where we know enough "tricks" and we have enough books and magic magazine subscriptions, then we should be able to apply them to our own performances. In fact, we should be able to walk into most any situation with confidence that we can perform magic with items at hand. We shouldn't have to rely on thumb tips, dove harnesses, or substitution trunks to elicit a favorable response from our audience in an impromptu setting.

Star Allen mentioned to me that confidence in your abilities means that you don't have to be carrying around a magic shop in your pocket to entertain. The magic shop should be in your mind so that when you walk into a room in an impromptu situation, you would feel confident enough that you could entertain with magic so that people know that you are a magician.

IBM Gold Cups winner Giovanni told me that he made the following statement to his wife while they were on the beach in

their swimming attire: "If trained commandos suddenly appeared from out of the sky and put a machine gun to your head and threatened to kill you unless I performed a half hour magic show right then, you could rest assured that your life would be spared." Now that's confidence.

It's important not just to know the secrets of how tricks work but we should know "why" tricks work. That way we can apply the knowledge to other situations and be creative. For example, Tenyo took the idea of the zig-zag illusion and made it small enough for a cigarette. I have also seen Paul Harris's "Immaculate Connection" linking card routine used on stage with jumbo cards. These ideas are just applying existing ideas and making them fit another size, but there are many ideas that can be coupled with other ideas and create a whole new effect.

It only takes a little imagination and a lot of knowledge. And you have enough knowledge.



Magic in the Streets

April 28, 1996

for the benefit of

Casa De Amparo

Open to the Public - Adults \$10, Seniors \$5

1 p.m. until 5 p.m.



I.B.M. Ring 76

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(Thanks here)

From The Hat

"The trick of it is ..., " "The way I handle that is..., " "So-and-so does it this way"

Sound familiar? It should. It was what you heard when you first got into magic and asked those experienced magicians in the Ring how to do this, that or the other. Now you're the old pro and your advise is needed for our new initiates. How would you advise them to handle a group, a person who wants to touch all the props, a gang of unruly kids with no parents in sight for miles?

Here is a forum for you to put all that hard-won experience to the betterment of the new magicians of Ring 76. After all, why should they have to make all the same mistakes we all did? Come share some of you most memorable, happy, disappointing or embarrassing moments with us. We will all promise to listen with rapt attention.

"There was this one time, I was doing a card trick for about eight people. I had a card selected (freely of course) and returned and lost in the deck. I have to tell you I was nervous. Shuffling those cards, my hands being burnt so intensely that the blisters were obvious to the most casual of observers.

"I shuffled and shuffled and, boom, three cards flew out of the deck and landed face up. Quite the accident don't you know. I sheepishly looked at the spectator who had selected the card; 'None of those are your card?' I asked, hoping none were.

"No, none are mine was the response.' Whew! Then I noticed, three cards, all different suits,

see HAT page 10

PERFORMANCES AROUND TOWN

(The following is the best information available at press time, please call ahead to verify performers, times and days. These restaurants are not looking for magicians to perform. Please stop by to support the magicians working there.)

94 Aero Squadron (560-6771) for Sunday Brunch, **Keith Boudreau**, Memorable Magic

Corvette's Diner (542-1476) 3946 5th Ave, features **Magic Mike** since 1987 Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30. Magic Mike says bring a deck of cards and he'll teach you a trick.

The Gathering - **Curtis Clark** performs Thursdays and Fridays from 7 to 10:30; **Terry Luncford** performs Saturdays from 7 to 10:30 (they sometimes change days)

Rip Tides Brewery Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays, 5 to 8 p.m., **Curtis Clark**

Tid Bits (543-0300) 3838 5th Ave., various performers call for information

(Professional Courtesy: let the working magician perform at their restaurant, leave your tricks at home. Come and enjoy.)

Special event:

Magic In The Streets
(One Day Only) Sunday, April 28, 1996 - 10 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for the benefit of Casa De Amaro. Rancho Bernardo. Supported by the magicians of I.B.M. Ring 76. Come see the many members of Ring 76 perform, amaze and bedazzle. If you plan to perform, be sure to bring plenty of business cards. Entrance fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. A good cause with some great performances. Come to watch or volunteer to perform! Call Rick Waterhouse, 299-1875 for details.

SUPPORT MAGIC IN SAN DIEGO
STOP BY AN ESTABLISHMENT WITH MAGICIANS

RING REPORT from page 4

Bill Monroe announced two upcoming Castle lectures not included in the Magic Castle newsletter: Dave Neighbors, this Sunday (March 17) and possibly Rocco. Craig Stone is bring in Dan Fleishman and perhaps Rocco for lectures in San Diego. Anyone interested in these lectures should call Craig Stone at Brad Burt's Magic Shop. **Dick Dale** announced that Dan Garrett will be here in August. Everyone interested in Dan's lecture should contact Dick. **Greg Wauson** announced that Greg Wilson from Orange County will come back to San Diego in the next 2-3 weeks if there is enough interest. Interested people should contact Greg Wauson.

Marcus Day reminded the Ring about the March 23 Magic Castle swap meet. Jamy Ian Swiss will be doing two lectures, one March 29 and one April 1, in LA (see *L.A. Lectures*). Rick encouraged the members of *Ring 76* to support *Magic In The Streets* April 28 for the benefit of Casa De Amparo, anyone interested in volunteering for this event should contact Rick. Greg Wauson told of the flight back from Magic at the Capital. According to Greg, **Jeff Marcus** had five rows of the plane laughing loudly as he performed some of the rubber band magic featured during the magic convention. The next Ring 76 Board Meeting is Monday, March 25, at Rick Waterhouse's. Jeff Marcus is bringing in Guy Hollingworth directly from the Castle April 29 and there are 5-6 slots still available.

Greg Wauson, our master of ceremonies, began the main meeting announcing that a record eleven members had signed up to perform this evening. The evening's first performer was **Diane Lane**. Diane began by regressing the Ring members to childhood, "take the first or last digit in your age and become a child of that

age. If your 58, now you're either 5 or 8!" Diane asked if we like bunny rabbits, and of course we all did. She asked if we'd like to see one, we all did. She made one from a silk wrapped around her finger (the body), its ears (the ends of the silk), we weren't impressed. Diane caged the silk bunny. Asking the group if we liked cats and dogs elicited applause. When she asked if we liked bunny rabbits applause and cheers erupted. When we looked at the cage again, there wasn't the one silk bunny but two real bunnies. Diane said this brings us to "the infomercial." Her father manufacture's production boxes and she had eight young bunnies looking for good homes.

Bill Monroe was our next performer. Bill explained that he learned his effect at a John Allan Magic Castle lecture. **Mary Brown**, chosen as spectator, selected a card from the deck. Bill had Mary sign her selected card. Bill produced a card with his signature and analyzed Mary's handwriting compared to his. Placing his signed card face down on the table off to one side, Bill placed the deck down and gave it a quick slap which he said would make Mary's card vanish. Fanning the deck, it had vanished. Bill reached across the table to reveal that the card Mary had sign had taken the place of his card placed there earlier.

Frank Herman was the evening's next performer. Frank began by producing an eagle and asking Greg Wauson whether it was a boy or girl eagle. When Greg couldn't say which it was, Frank changed the eagle into an egg, which no one could tell. Frank then showed an effect where water, against the laws of nature, ran up stream. Frank then turned Greg's hand into a gun and showed his ability to shoot various things including through a plastic jug. Those up front got the point,

Gallagher style, from the spurting bottle.

Jim Jolly was next up. Greg as spectator selected a card and showed it to all present. As Greg was replacing the card, Jim asked Greg to remember the setting, some cards in the left hand, some cards in the right hand and Greg with his selected card, in between. Jim shuffled the deck in a most unconventional way: some face up, some face down, some back to back and some face to face. When he finished, he asked Greg if the card on top, the ace of clubs, was Greg's. Greg said no. Jim handed Greg the ace of clubs and asked him to wave the card over the deck. When Greg waved the card over the deck, Jim spread the cards showing the cards had all immediately become face down. Jim asked Greg if the setting wasn't very familiar, some card in the left hand, some in the right and Greg with a face down card in between, just like earlier. Greg, turning over the ace of clubs he had waved over the deck, discovered it had turned into his selected card.

Rick Waterhouse chose a Michael Ammar effect for his routine, selecting Loch David Crane as his spectator. Rick told a story with four blank cards that turned into cards with webs then into spiders then back into blank cards. Rick said they should try to bring back the vanished spider when, very much to Loch's surprise, a spider appeared on the floor.

Rich Robertson again regressed the group to "5 through 11 year olds." **Sherry Luft** was Rich's assistant and had agreed to be locked into a headstockade. Greg showed that it was a solid, locked stockade before Sherry was locked in. When Rich covered up Sherry, she magical became free, yet the locks were as locked as ever. Rich retrieved the stockade and,



by magic, was himself locked in the stockade.

Jeff Marcus started his routine with a very long piece of rope that went from having to ends to three ends to four ends, back to two ends. In Jeff's performance the rope took on amazing properties and defying the laws of matter, tied and untied itself in mysterious ways.

Joe Mystic demonstrated a card effect where **Diane Lane** chose a card, the three of diamonds, and returned it to the deck where it was promptly lost. Joe, shuffling the deck over and over told Diane he would make her card, which he hadn't seen, come to the top of the deck. Turning over the top card, the two of diamonds, he announced he had done the impossible. Diane told Joe that he was mistaken, it was the 3 of diamonds not the 2. Joe folded up the 2 and tore a small part of the card out of the middle, making the card in a 3 of diamonds (the middle diamond pip ripped in the card by Joe). Joe said the hardest part of the trick was making the corner number match, revealing that the 2's in each corner had changed to 3's.

Greg Wauson's performance concluded the main meeting. Greg did a wonderful rubber band and ring routine using Jim Jolly and Jim's wedding band. Greg linked and unlinked the ring to the rubber band, concluding with the ring off the rubber band and one complete and undamaged rubber band.

After the regular meeting, **Loch David Crane** performed a complete ten minute close-up routine for a small group of Ring 76 members. Loch produced a video for himself and lots of laughs for his small gathered audience. It was a most enjoyable evening with lots of Ring 76 members we have sorely missed.

Board from page 6

4. Paul Killea's Membership issue from the last Board meeting has been deferred until the next Board meeting (Jim Jolly's action).

5. Site selection committee reported that Mary Brown has offered, and we have accepted, Francis Parker School as the site for the next three Ring 76 meetings. A map will be in the next newsletter.

6. Ring Reports several old condensed versions of the Ring reports appeared in the last Linking Ring along with an article (including photos) of Magic Heritage Day. Jim Fry reported that Roy Barnes said he had received several Ring reports in December and now expects to have Ring reports appearing regularly.

7. Miscellaneous items discussed included continuing to search for a location for a permanent Ring 76 meeting location, one where members can meeting until 10 p.m. The site selection committee was asked to continue to search for locations and a request for suggestion by Ring members be placed in the newsletter.

Open Business: T.C. Tahoe flyers for the magic shops (Rick Waterhouse), Paul Killea's membership issue (Jim Jolly), site search (Jim Jolly, Jim Fry), slate of officers (Sherry Luft and the nominating committee), installation venue and performers (Rick Waterhouse), auction rules (Dick Dale)

Reach the San Diego
Magic Community

Advertise in MagiCurrents.

Call (619) 554-0335 for price & availability.

Board Report

Board Report - February 26, 1996

Dick Bush's Home, El Cajon

Attendees: Rick Waterhouse,

Greg Wauson, Jeff Marcus,

Mark Flores, Dick Bush, Jim Fry

Agenda:

1. Casa de Amparo
2. Installation Banquet
3. April Dues
4. TC Tahoe Lecture
5. TVP Request
6. Membership, Paul Killea
7. Newsletter
8. The Gathering

1. Casa de Amparo Magic In The Streets is an annual event in the Rancho Penasquitos area which benefits abused children in the San Diego community. Rick believes this is a worthy cause which needs Ring 76 support to be successful. Last year over \$40,000 was raised from the auction, admission and contributions of people attending the event. Everything is donated with the single exception of the band's direct cost for set up. Admission to the event is \$10 adults and \$5 Seniors and students. Children under 5 are free. The Board voted to taking this on as a Ring event with one exception voiced by Jeff Marcus who wanted to make sure there was no Ring liability.

2. Ring Reports have not been appearing in Linking Rings. A letter was sent with February's Ring Report to Roy Barnes to determine what we can do to make sure our reports are in the Linking Ring. No response as yet.

3. Dues in April. There will be a \$15 charge for anyone who wants to attend the TC Tahoe lecture and is not a current, paid-up Ring 76 member.

(There was brief discussion that we have to be better at handling payments this year than last year

see BOARD page 11

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Francis Parker School
6501 Linda Vista Road

Our thanks to Mary Brown for providing a new and outstanding

miles), Right side 6501 Linda Vista Rd.

From: 805/163

South on 163 Bear right on Genesee Ave, go 4 blocks (0.5 miles), Hard left on Linda Vista Rd, go 10 blocks (1.6 miles), Left side 6501 Linda Vista Rd

The May 13th T. C. Tahoe lecture and the June 10th election are scheduled to be held in the same location and the same room.

from BOARD page 10

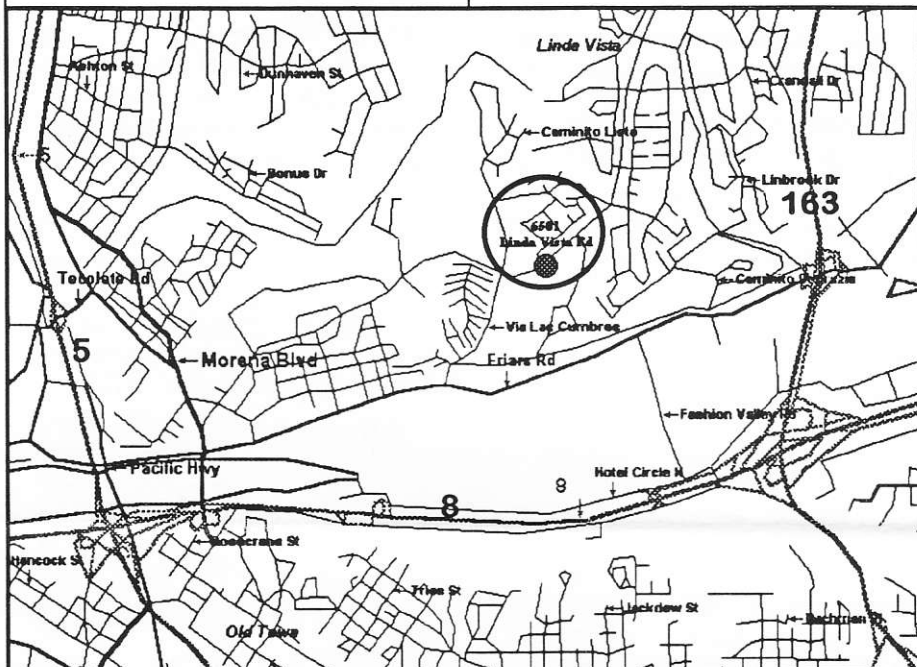
to make sure we know who has paid dues and who has not. Jim Jolly said he plans to make one deposit for each dues payment so there will be no question of payments.)

(There was brief discussion by Jim Fry that additional copies (10 to 20) be sent to the two Magic Shops for their use. The Board voted and accepted this for two months during the membership drive. The Board will discuss this issue in May to see if it is worth continuing.)

4. Paul Killea has claimed he paid his dues but has not been receiving the newsletter for the past year. He wants to have next year free. The discussion indicates that it is unlikely that his membership was paid and Jim Jolly will handle this issue.

5. TC Tahoe is coming down for the May lecture and this has been confirmed by Greg Wauson. This event will be open to the magic community. Rick has volunteered to do posters for the event and circulate them.

6. The Gathering Rick has confirmed with Dan that the Gathering will host the next Ring 76 meeting. The membership/Board will have to determine if it is working out and we will have to find another place if it isn't. The site selection committee was asked to look for a venue for the May TC Tahoe lecture since it is inappropriate to attempt to use the Gathering for that particular meeting.



venue for Ring 76 meetings. There are three different rooms possible for Ring meetings: (1) the Meeting Room; (2) the Cafeteria; and (3) Mary's classroom. The April meeting is planned to be held in the Meeting Room and should provide adequate space for members to display their treasures.

Directions:

From: West 8

West on 8; Bear right on Hotel Circle, right on Hotel Circle N go 1 block (0.1 miles), Turn left on Fashion Valley Rd go 3 blocks (0.5 miles), Turn left on Friars Rd, go 2 blocks (0.7 miles), Turn right on Via Las Cumbres, go 11 blocks (0.5 miles), Turn right on Linda Vista Rd, go 5 blocks (0.3

From: 5

Exit east on Tecolote Rd, go 2 blocks (0.1 miles), Turn right on W Morena Blvd go 3 blocks (0.2 miles), Turn left on Dorcas St go 2 blocks (0.1 miles), Turn right on Morena Blvd, go 7 blocks (0.6 miles) Turn left on Napa St, go 1 block (0.1 miles) Turn left on Linda Vista Rd, go 16 blocks (1.5 miles) Right side 6501 Linda Vista Rd

LOOK FOR SIGNS

Signs will be posted to direct you to the cafeteria. Enter the East-Most entrance (2nd east bound entrance or the first west bound entrance) off Linda Vista and park in the traffic circle. The Meeting Room is in the building directly ahead of you as you face the school (with Linda Vista to your back).



7. **Membership** there was brief discussion on the types of membership. Jim Fry proposed a newsletter only membership for people in San Diego. The Board voted down this concept since it is in violation of our bylaws. Jim Jolly confirmed that the Associate Member is specifically for spouse/SO of a paid member.

8. **Installation Banquet** needs to be planned. Rick suggested that we attempt to bring in outside magicians to a cabaret setting, suggesting that someone like Mike Finney may be appropriate. There was considerable discussion on how we try to handle this event and who we might bring in. Greg Wauson suggested that we open the question of whether we deviate from the normal Installation Banquet to a Cabaret and put forth a motion that a vote be put to the general membership -- there was no second.

Rick asked who on the current Board is willing to seek office for another year, Greg Wauson was the only positive respondent. The Board was encouraged to begin thinking of a new slate of officers for the coming year. A search committee needs to be chosen at the next Ring meeting.

Greg volunteered to get pricing information for Banquets. The discussions indicated that the cost of the Banquet will probably be much higher than last year.

Rick volunteered to get pricing information and details on a Comedy Cabaret setting.

9. **Dick Dale**, TVP for IBM, requested an official contact office (instead of a person) for IBM related issues. Office of Secretary was voted to be the contact office.

10. **April Auction**, we need an auctioneer. Gary Salisbury was selected by the Board as an excellent candidate and Jim Fry volunteered to contact Gary.

OPEN BUSINESS: Auction in April (Next Board Meeting)

Paul Killea membership (Jim Jolly)

Contact Gary Salisbury as auctioneer (Jim Fry)

Flyers for TC Tahoe Lecture (Rick Waterhouse)

Find venue for May Lecture (Site Selection Committee)

Pricing for Banquet/Cabaret (Greg Wauson/Rick Waterhouse)

(Editor's Note: This Board report was not in the March issue of MagiCurrents due to space.)

HAT from page 6

and the suit of the selected card wasn't among them. 'And the suit of the card you selected is the only one missing from those three cards, isn't it?' I asked with glee.

"Well no, it isn't" was the response. Oh my, how could I ever be this lucky I silently wondered.

"And if you were to total those three cards on the floor, would that total just happen to be the value of the card you selected?"

"Realizing I now had the impossible effect. Never having even looked at the face of any card after having the deck returned, three cards had landed on the floor at the feet of my spectators. Not only did the value of those three cards (two fours and a two) total the ten-spot selected by the spectator, but the only suit not visible, a heart, was the suit of the selected card.

"Well then, I guess you selected the ten of hearts!' Sweeping up the three cards from the floor, off I strolled....Smiling for a month!"

Send us your favorite *From The Hat* story, quip or observation. We're all waiting...

RENEWED MEMBERS MARCH 1996

The following are the Ring 76 members who renewed their membership during March, 1996:

**Mary Brown
Dick Bush
Loch David Crane
Marcus Day
Frank Herman
Jim Jolly
David Lane
Fritz Lotze
Joe Mystic**

(If you renewed and your name is not listed, please contact Jim Jolly.)

MEETING VENUE

The *Ring 76* Board continues to seek ideas and suggestions on a permanent home for *Ring 76*. Bring an idea to the next meeting or contact Jim Jolly (484-2788) or Jim Fry (554-0335).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!

June is my last month as Editor, the Ring needs your help. Please call 554-0335 - ED.

Vote

The Ring 76 annual elections are around the corner and that means it's time to decide on the slate of new officers for the coming year. It is your turn to decide who can best contribute to the club and how you can help the organization make 1996-97 better.

The offices are:

President

Vice-President

Treasurer (and Membership)

Secretary

Sergeant-At-Arms

2 - Directors At Large

The outgoing President, Rick Waterhouse, will become a Director At Large after his term this year and Greg Wauson will seek another year as an officer. That leaves five positions open on the Ring 76 Board. So, this is your club, who can step forward and contribute. Share your ability to have and share a vision, to add value to the organization in ways we haven't thought of, to bring Ring 76 another step in its journey.

Elections are in June with the installation of officers in July. We need your thoughts, comments and, most of all, your talent. Bring your ideas to the nominating committee, to a current Board member or to the meeting. Now more than ever, we need your help.

UPCOMING LECTURES

Guy Hollingworth

April 29, "Expert Card Magic," directly from the Magic Castle in LA, to be held in the Mira Mar area, contact Jeff Marcus, (619) 562-3434

Dan Garrett

August, Contact Dick Dale, (619) 562-7379

Dan Fleshman

King of Clubs & Restaurants, originally scheduled for March 8, has been postponed. The new date has not been established but will probably be in August.

Ring 76's Annual Swap Meet / Auction

Just when you thought you had recovered from those Christmas bills, along comes the Annual Ring 76 Swap Meet/ Auction to help relieve you from any of that pesky cash you might have lying around collecting interest.

Tables are available for members to display their treasures for sale. There will be an auction later in the evening hosted by auctioneer Dick Dale, assisted by Jeff Marcus. Tables cost \$5 each. The Ring receives 10% of the sale price of all auctioned magic which is sold. Seller may set minimum sale prices and are not subject to 10% if the item is not bid over the minimum and not sold.

Final Rule: NO WHINING!

TERRITORIAL VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Downsizing is going to affect IBM. The so-called "middle management" is being streamlined by the elimination of the Territorial Representative ('It') position at year's end. Currently 'It's are appointed by TVP's on an annual basis. Some Rings have as many as five or six TR's with no clear responsibilities. The position often became an honorary one as opposed to one that contributed efficiently. The TR(s) will be replaced key contact for each Rang. This person will be decided upon by the Ring and will be responsible to communicate information from and to the TVP on an as-needed basis. Further, the International Vice President position will be eliminated. This will optimize communication between Rings and IBM.

New brochures are on the way. A series of attractive brochures are being produced to help the TVP to better service the Rings. These will include:

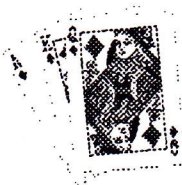
- Ideas and Activities for Ring Meetings
- Guidelines for Ring Officers
- Ring Constitution and Bylaws
- Broken Wand Ceremony
- Installation Ceremony

A revitalized Ring Quality Recognition Program is in the works. The aims of this program is to provide Rings with a useful means of reviewing the quality of their operation and setting goals for development. It will also recognize Rings whose achievements show that they have an exceptionally well run operation, a "Quality Ring".

IBM is communicating with the TVP's more than ever. It is only fair that we do the same with our Rings.

I look forward to meeting with all of you and to work in partnership with you to build improved Ring operations. This can't help but to strengthen the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

-Dick Dale, I.B.M., TVP



At The Shops

The Magic Shop Hours: Sun-Sat
849 W. Harbor Drive 10:00-9:00
San Diego, CA

(619) 236-1556

Mary says, "Whew, the remodeling is finally done!" Stop by and see the new, spacious shop.

Brad Burt's Hours: M-T 10:00-6:00
4690 Convoy Friday 10:00-8:00
San Diego, CA Sat: 10-5:30, Sun: 12-4
(619) 571-4749

The best selling items are: **Torn & Restored Newspaper, Sealed for you Protection**, Darwin Ortiz's **Card Shark Video** and Gregory Wilson's **Stockholder**.
(Tell 'em you saw it here!)

At The Castle

(All shows subject to change. Information based on best available at press time. Call the Magic Castle for up to date information.)

APRIL 8 - 14

E. CLOSE-UP: *Randall Richman*
L. CLOSE-UP: *Fr. Jim Blantz*
E. PARLOUR: *Alfonso*
L. PARLOUR: *Earl Nelson*
PALACE: *Paul Driscoll*
T.C. Tahoe & Lesley
Goldfinger & Dove

APRIL 15 - 21

E. CLOSE-UP: *Bruce Cervon*
L. CLOSE-UP: *Joycee Beck*
E. PARLOUR: *James Warren*
L. PARLOUR: *Robert Baxt*
PALACE: *Jim Bentley*
Michael Douglas
Enrico de la Vega

APRIL 22 - 28

E. CLOSE-UP: *Tony Giorgio*
L. CLOSE-UP: *Whit Haydn*
E. PARLOUR: *Gary Frank*
L. PARLOUR: *Guy Hollingworth*
PALACE: *Mark Haslam*
Scott Cervine
Christopher Hart

At The Ring

(The following are the upcoming Ring Meeting nights. Ring 76 is currently searching for a permanent meeting location and locations are subject to change. MagiCurrents will announce the planned meeting location in each newsletter.)

APRIL 8 - Ring 76 Annual Auction

The annual auction of Ring 76. Bring those collectibles and turn them into cold hard cash.

MAY 13 - T.C. Tahoe Lecture

This is the lecture we have all be waiting for. Meeting is at no cost for all paid Ring 76 members.

JUNE 10 - Election Night

The election of the officers and directors of Ring 76. Come out and vote.

JULY 8 - Ring 76 Installation Banquet for 1996-97

Location to be determined. Date is subject to change.

NEXT MEETING

Swap Meet



April 8, 1996
6:30 PM



Francis Parker School
6501 Linda Vista Rd
San Diego, CA
(See Directions Page 11)

MagiCurrents
4046 Caminito Terviso
San Diego, CA 92122-1993

**New Meeting
Location**

Roy & Betty Armstrong

2548 Littleton Road
El Cajon, CA 92020

